(iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.

(iv) Pilotage

(v) Captive facilities for port based industries.

(c) to (e) The Shipping Industry has already been permitted to raise external commercial borrowing for acquisition of ships. Shipping companies can mobilise funds from their internal resources. The Shipping Industry has raised the following external commercial borrowing during the last 3 years:—

Year	(US $ in Million)
1998-1999	36.48
1999-2000	27.16
2000-2001	144.43

Introducing Ferry Service in Coastal Area

4177. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce ferry service between Tuticorin-Trivandrum-Rameshwaram-Kanyakumari with a view to promoting quick and cheap transport in the coastal area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is at present no demand for introduction of Ferry services by the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of Kerala. Also, it is a state subject.

Educational Loan Scheme for Backward Castes in A.P.

4178. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Educational Loan Scheme for the Backward Castes in Andhra Pradesh through the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of backward class students benefited under the scheme in the State during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the other measures being taken by Government to raise educational standard of OBCs in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme, loan is provided to the students of Backward Classes living below double the poverty line to meet the expenditure on admission fee, tuition fee, examination fee and expenses on books, stationery and other instruments required and boarding & lodging etc. for pursuing general/professional/technical courses or training at graduate and/or higher level. Maximum loan limit per student is Rs. 75000/- per annum subject to maximum of Rs. 3.00 lakhs for the entire course or actual expenses whichever is less.

(c) The Scheme is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh through Andhra Pradesh Backward Classes Cooperative Finance Corporation Ltd. (APBCCFC) with effect from the year 2001-2002. 1193 students have been benefited under the scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year.

(d) Besides above, the Government of India has been implementing the schemes of Pre-matric Scholarships to OBCs, Post-matric Scholarships to OBCs, Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls and Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs since 1998-99 to raise educational standard of OBCs in the country.

Expenditure on Social Sector

4179. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the social sector expenditure has declined/increased in the 1990s;

(b) if so, the changes in the composition of social sector expenditure;

(c) whether the external aid for the social sector increased;

(d) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(e) the programmes which were launched during the last five years and how these programmes have contributed towards overall development